

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ring-shaped part washing method, comprising the steps of:
disposing ~~[[a]]~~ ring-shaped parts in a washing tank filled with a washing fluid, each of said ring-shaped parts including a central axis and a ring face extending around the central axis,
said ring-shaped parts being disposed inclinedly with respect to a ultrasonic vibration plate disposed in said washing tank in such a manner that the central axes of said ring-shaped parts intersect with a plate surface of said ultrasonic vibration plate at an angle other than a right angle,
wherein said angle is set to be 30 - 60°; and [[,]]

applying ultrasonic waves, generated by said ultrasonic vibration plate, to thereby remove from said ring-shaped parts foreign substances adhering to said ring-shaped parts therefrom thereto.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A ring-shaped part washing method, ~~according to claim 1~~
comprising the steps of:

disposing ring-shaped parts in a washing tank filled with a washing fluid, each of said ring-shaped parts including a central axis and a ring face extending around the central axis, said ring-shaped parts being disposed inclinedly with respect to a ultrasonic vibration plate disposed in said washing tank in such a manner that the central axes of said ring-shaped parts intersect with a plate surface of said ultrasonic vibration plate at an angle other than a right angle, wherein said angle is set to be in the combination range of 30 - 60° for some of the ring-shaped parts, and in the range of 120 - 150° for other ones of the ring-shaped parts; and

applying ultrasonic waves, generated by said ultrasonic vibration plate, to thereby remove from said ring-shaped parts foreign substances adhering thereto.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ ring-shaped part washing method, ~~according to claim 1,~~
~~further comprising:~~ comprising the steps of:

disposing ring-shaped parts in a washing tank filled with a washing fluid, each of said
ring-shaped parts including a central axis and a ring face extending around the central axis, said
ring-shaped parts being disposed inclinedly with respect to a ultrasonic vibration plate disposed
in said washing tank in such a manner that the central axes of said ring-shaped parts intersect
with a plate surface of said ultrasonic vibration plate at an angle other than a right angle;

applying ultrasonic waves, generated by said ultrasonic vibration plate, to thereby remove
from said ring-shaped parts foreign substances adhering thereto;

inserting a linear support member having a plurality of notches for inclinedly supporting
said ring-shaped parts into inner peripheries of said ring-shaped parts while facing said notches
downward, to thereby hang down said ring-shaped parts from said support member; and

rotating said support member by 180° to face said notches upward, whereby upper
portions of the inner peripheries of said ring-shaped parts are put into said notches so that all of
said ring-shaped parts are inclinedly supported on said support member at the same time.

5-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) The ring-shaped part washing method according to claim 1, wherein the ring-
shaped parts are inner races or outer races of rolling bearings.

14. (New) The ring-shaped part washing method according to claim 1, wherein there is
provided a pair of parallel long plates having upper edges and two ends supported on the
washing tank in such a manner that the longitudinal direction of the long plates defines a
horizontal direction and plate surfaces of the long plates define vertical surfaces, and a plurality
of notches is formed in the upper edges, wherein the lower portions of the ring-shaped parts can
be put into the notches to support the ring-shaped parts in an inclined manner, at given intervals
in the longitudinal direction of the long plates.

15. (New) The ring-shaped part washing method according to claim 1, wherein there is provided a long plate having an upper edge and two ends supported on the washing tank in such a manner that the longitudinal direction of the long plate defines a horizontal direction and plate surfaces of the long plate define vertical surfaces, and a plurality of notches is formed in the upper edge, wherein the upper portions of the inner peripheries of the ring-shaped parts can be put into the notches to support the ring-shaped parts in an inclined manner, at given intervals in the longitudinal direction of the long plate.

16. (New) The ring-shaped part washing method according to claim 1, wherein there is formed a basket made of mesh or punching material for storing the ring-shaped parts therein and, in the bottom portion of the basket, there are formed a plurality of saw-blade-shaped recessed portions into which the lower portions of the ring-shaped parts can be put to thereby support the ring-shaped parts in their inclined states.